

Transportation Enhancement Activities

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
U.S. Code, Title 23 Section 101(a)

What is the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) program?

California will receive about \$60 million per year for six years, starting in 1997. A local funding share is required in each reimbursed phase of work. TEA is a reimbursable capital-improvement program. Projects must comply with federal environmental requirements and other federal regulations, including those for considering disadvantaged business enterprises in consultant selection and for paying prevailing wages during construction.

What makes a project be a Transportation Enhancement Activity?

Transportation enhancement activities must have a direct relationship – by function, proximity or impact – to the surface transportation system. (New activities are in bold typeface.) Activities must be over and above normal projects, including mitigation.

This list is exclusive. Only these activities are eligible to be accounted for as transportation enhancement activities. They are:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. **Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.**
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
4. Scenic or historic highway **programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).**
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archaeological planning and research.
11. Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff **or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity**
12. **Establishment of transportation museums.**

How does the application process work?

California's TEA dollars are divided into four places: 1) Regional Transportation Planning Agencies select three quarters of the projects. Deadlines for application vary by Region. 2) Conservation Lands Program (selected by Caltrans and the Resources Agency). 3) Statewide Environmental Enhancement (available in 2002 and selected by the Resources Agency). 4) Caltrans enhances its own projects.

How can I get more information?

To sign up for the TEA mailing list, call (916) 654-5275, FAX: (916) 654-3770
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Applicants must check with their Regional Transportation Planning Agency to obtain the deadline for application. Dates vary by Region. Those on the mailing list will receive guidelines, probably in January 1999, although some Regions will have called for projects before then. See the Caltrans TEA website -- soon -- for more information:
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/TransEnhAct/.